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Thursday, March 23, 2017 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Philly cheesesteaks for all. 16-17

DALLAS GREEN DIES AT 82

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TRUMP FIGHTS FOR SUPPORT AHEAD OF VOTE

1 While paying little attention to the details of the House Republican effort, Trump has put considerable effort into shoring up the bill, actively courting conservative lawmakers with objections to the bill. In a trip to Capitol Hill on Tuesday he warned Republicans that failure could have sharp repercussions in next year's congressional mid-term elections. Trump kept up his efforts to sell the plan, called

the American Health Care Act, on Wednesday, meeting with a group of House members at the White House. He declined to say what he would do if the proposed legislation fails in the House. Asked if he would keep pushing the bill, he told reporters: "We'll see what happens." REUTERS

NORTH KOREA MISSILE TEST FAILS

2 A North Korean missile appeared to have exploded just after it was launched, the U.S. and South Korean militaries said after detecting the latest in a series of weapons tests by the nuclear-armed state that have alarmed the region. The launch attempt was made near the city of Wonsan, on North Korea's east coast, the same place it launched several intermediate-range missiles last year, all but one of which failed. "U.S. Pacific Command detected what we assess was a failed North Korean missile launch attempt ... in the vicinity of Kalma," Commander Dave Benham, a spokesman for U.S. Pacific Command, said in a statement, referring to an air field in Wonsan. "A missile appears to have exploded within seconds of launch," Benham said, adding that a more detailed assessment was underway. REUTERS

TILLERSON PLEDGES SAFE AREAS FOR REFUGEES

3 Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the United States would set up "interim zones of stability" to help refugees return home in the next phase of the fight against Islamic State and al Qaeda in Syria and Iraq. The top U.S. diplomat did not make clear where these zones were to be set up. He was addressing a meeting of 68 countries and organizations gathered in Washington to discuss

accelerating the battle against Islamic State. "The United States will increase our pressure on ISIS and al Qaeda and will work to establish interim zones of stability, through ceasefires, to allow refugees to return home," Tillerson told the gathering at the State Department, where he was hosting his first major diplomatic event. REUTERS

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Two knives used by the attacker

5 The suspect in London's terror attack is taken away on a stretcher after he was shot by police officers while two knives lay on the floor outside the Palace of Westminster, London. For more on the London terror attack, see pages 8-9. GETTY IMAGE

ILLINOIS BILLS SEEK TO LEGALIZE, TAX MARIJUANA

4 Illinois would legalize marijuana for recreational use by adults and tax it to raise at least $350 million a year for the cash-strapped state under legislation introduced. Two Democratic lawmakers sponsoring the bills said the measures pending before the House and Senate would allow law enforcement to focus on other crimes and enable the state to create a system for regulating and taxing marijuana sales. Adults aged 21 and older would be able to possess, grow, and purchase limited amounts of marijuana, under the legislation. Businesses cultivating, processing, testing and selling pot would be licensed and regulated by the state, which would also impose labeling requirements and marketing restrictions. State Sen. Heather Steans said money would flow to licensed, taxpaying businesses instead of to criminals. REUTERS

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ALEXIS SACHDEV, WEB REPORTER

Another day, another Trump-Russia scandal. Having a hard time keeping straight which members of the prez's inner circle held secret meetings, and which just accepted millions of dollars to act in Vladimir Putin's best interests? Us too. So we made a guide. Get to know all the players online at **metro.us/news.**

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Campaign posters for Republican candidate Lucinda Little and Green Party candidate Cheri Honkala are seen on a telephone pole in the 197th District. Results from the race won't be tallied officially until Friday, but the Democrat who ran a write-in campaign claimed he won. SAM NEWHOUSE

Democrat claims write-in victory in North Philly special election, but no one is conceding

Candidates allege shenanigans in state House race that featured only one candidate on the ballot.

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A write-in candidate will be headed to Harrisburg to represent North Philadelphia, but it's still unclear who that will be.

The official winner of Tuesday's special election for state representative of the 197th House District won't be determined until Friday, when roughly 92 percent of votes cast for write-in candidates are tallied.

That didn't stop write-in candidate Emilio Vasquez, a Democrat, from claiming victory in an interview with Newsworks on Tuesday night after polls closed.

"I'm prepared to say I'm confident I'm the winner," he said.

But Green Party candidate Cheri Honkala, who also ran a write-in campaign, hasn't conceded, and complained of possible dirty tricks by the Democrats.

"It took me over an hour to vote myself this morning," Honkala said in a statement. "First, the machines weren't turned on. I've personally seen a Democratic ward leader repeatedly going in and out of the polling place, touching the machines and God knows what else."

There were at least five write-in candidates in the special election.

The only candidate actually on the ballot was Republican Lucinda Little, who won the endorsement of the Inquirer, but only got about 5 percent, or some 195 votes, compared to 2,396 votes cast for write-in candidates, according to early, unofficial results. She acknowledged to Newsworks that the numbers were not in her favor.

The winning candidates will fill the seat vacated by Leslie Acosta. She was forced to resign in December, after it had been revealed she had pleaded guilty to a federal felony charge related to an embezzlement scheme and failed to disclose it. Acosta's predecessor J.P. Miranda left office while facing criminal charges.

Green Party candidate Honkala, a longtime anti-poverty activist, didn't make it on the ballot for failing to fill out the proper paperwork, but ran a door-knocking campaign asking people to write her name in on ballots.

Both Republicans and Honkala supporters complained of dirty tricks, electioneering and various shenanigans around the district on election day.

"It's the same old from the corrupt Democratic machine in the 197th," claimed Philly GOP chairman Joseph DeFelice in an election day news release complaining of electioneering. He reported that the GOP spotted fake poll-watcher certificates, and added that election boards illegally distributed campaign literature.

"It's the same old from the corrupt Democratic machine in the 197th."

Joseph DeFelice

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Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams leaves federal court in Philly on Wednesday, after being arraigned on 23 counts, including bribery and extortion charges. SAM NEWHOUSE

DA 'categorically denies' federal corruption charges

District Attorney Seth Williams pleaded not guilty to crimes listed in a 23-count indictment.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams appeared in federal court as a criminal defendant Wednesday, and was arraigned on 23 counts of charges that included bribery and extortion.

He entered a not guilty plea.

Williams left court without commenting to the news media, and has not addressed whether he will resign. Federal prosecutors on Tuesday dropped the bombshell announcement that he would be charged.

His defense attorney, Michael Diamondstein, urged the public to give Williams a chance to fight the charges before considering him guilty.

"This indictment is 24 hours old, and yet too many politicians and commentators have already tried and convicted Seth Williams in the media," Diamondstein said outside the courthouse Wednesday afternoon. "Simply because the government makes explosive allegations in the complaint doesn't mean they're going to prove it in a court of law.

"Seth Williams categorically denies, categorically denies that he is guilty of any crime and he asks only that this rush to judgment stop."

News of the indictment sent shockwaves through the community. Williams' star had been on the rise. Elected in 2010, he was Philly's first black district attorney.

He is accused of using his position as the city's chief law enforcement officer to acquire sports tickets, free vacations to exotic locales, a Jaguar convertible, fancy furniture and other gifts.

Federal prosecutors also say Williams took $10,000 intended for the nursing home care of his mother, as well as her Social Security and pension benefits, and spent it on himself.

In January, Williams was fined $62,000 by the city Ethics Board for failing to report $160,000 in gifts, the largest fine the board has ever issued.

Federal prosecutors have noted that the case does not jeopardize any convictions the district attorney's office has won under Williams' tenure, and does not reflect on the conduct of any prosecutors working in the office.

PHILLIES LEGEND

Dallas Green, Phillies' World Series manager, dies at 82

Dallas Green, who as Phillies manager took the team to their first World Series title in 1980, died Wednesday. He was 82.

"The Phillies have lost a great man and wonderful friend," the Phillies organization posted on Twitter. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

He died of kidney failure and pneumonia, a family member told local news media.

Green managed the Phillies from 1979 to 1981. His Phillies beat the Kansas City Royals in six games in the 1980 World Series — the team's first of its two World Series titles. It was the first World Series played entirely on artificial turf.

Dallas Green (R) Hank Mason (L)
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Green went on to manage the Yankees in 1989, but lasted only one season before being axed by owner George Steinbrenner.

Green was hired by the Mets in 1993 and managed the team for three years.

Green worked in the front office for the Phillies before going on to his position as executive vice president and general manager of the Cubs in 1980s, CBS2 reported.

As a player, Green was a right-handed spot-starter and reliever and pitched for the Phillies, Mets and the Washington Senators.

He "never mastered his control or his temper," according to Philly.com. As a pitcher, Green finished his career with a 20-22 record and a 4.26 ERA.

"I was a 20-game winner," he used to joke, Philly.com reported. "It just took me five years to do it."

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Immigration and Customs Enforcement published a first weekly report on communities who are "uncooperative" with Trump Administration deportation goals. GETTY IMAGES

Federal authorities publish list of 'uncooperative' sanctuary cities

Immigration Customs and Enforcement list takes aim at communities Trump administration says have lax immigration policy.

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Officials are speaking out against a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement list they say is aimed at shaming communities that identify as sanctuary cities and towns.

The 35-page report calls out more than 100 communities, including Boston, New York City and Philadelphia, and says they are "uncooperative" with the Trump administration's efforts to detain and deport illegal immigrants.

Communities with so-called sanctuary policies often choose not to detain illegal immigrants at the request of ICE, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, unless the individuals are convicted of serious crimes or are wanted under a federal warrant.

The ICE report details 206 instances, including some in New York City and Philadelphia, between Jan. 28 and Feb. 3, when federal "detainer" requests were denied.

A detainer is a request made by ICE to local authorities to hold an undocumented immigrant in custody for up to 48 hours "to allow DHS to assume custody for removal purposes."

Proponents of sanctuary cities say their policies promote safer communities and trust between the police and the public, and preserve families.

The report, which ICE says will be updated weekly, was prompted by a January executive order in which Trump promised a crackdown on communities that promote sanctuary policies. The president has threatened to withhold federal funding from such communities.

Several officials pointed out inaccuracies in the report after it was published Monday. ICE has made 14 corrections so far.

Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza told the Associated Press that while Rhode Island does not generally honor ICE detainer requests, it was included on the list over a nonbinding city resolution from 2011, which Elorza claimed wasn't about detainers.

"They cast a very broad net in who they included in this list. We're all still trying to figure out what is accomplished by this list, and also how it's going to be used," he said.

Other cities where sanctuary policies instructing law enforcement not to comply with detainer requests in the case of illegal immigrants who have either not committed a crime or are nonviolent offenders exist were not included on ICE's list, WGBH reported.

The debate on how to deal with the 11 million undocumented immigrants catapulted back into the national spotlight Tuesday during a White House news briefing.

"They cast a very broad net in who they included in this list. We're all still trying to figure out what is accomplished by this list, and also how it's going to be used."

Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza

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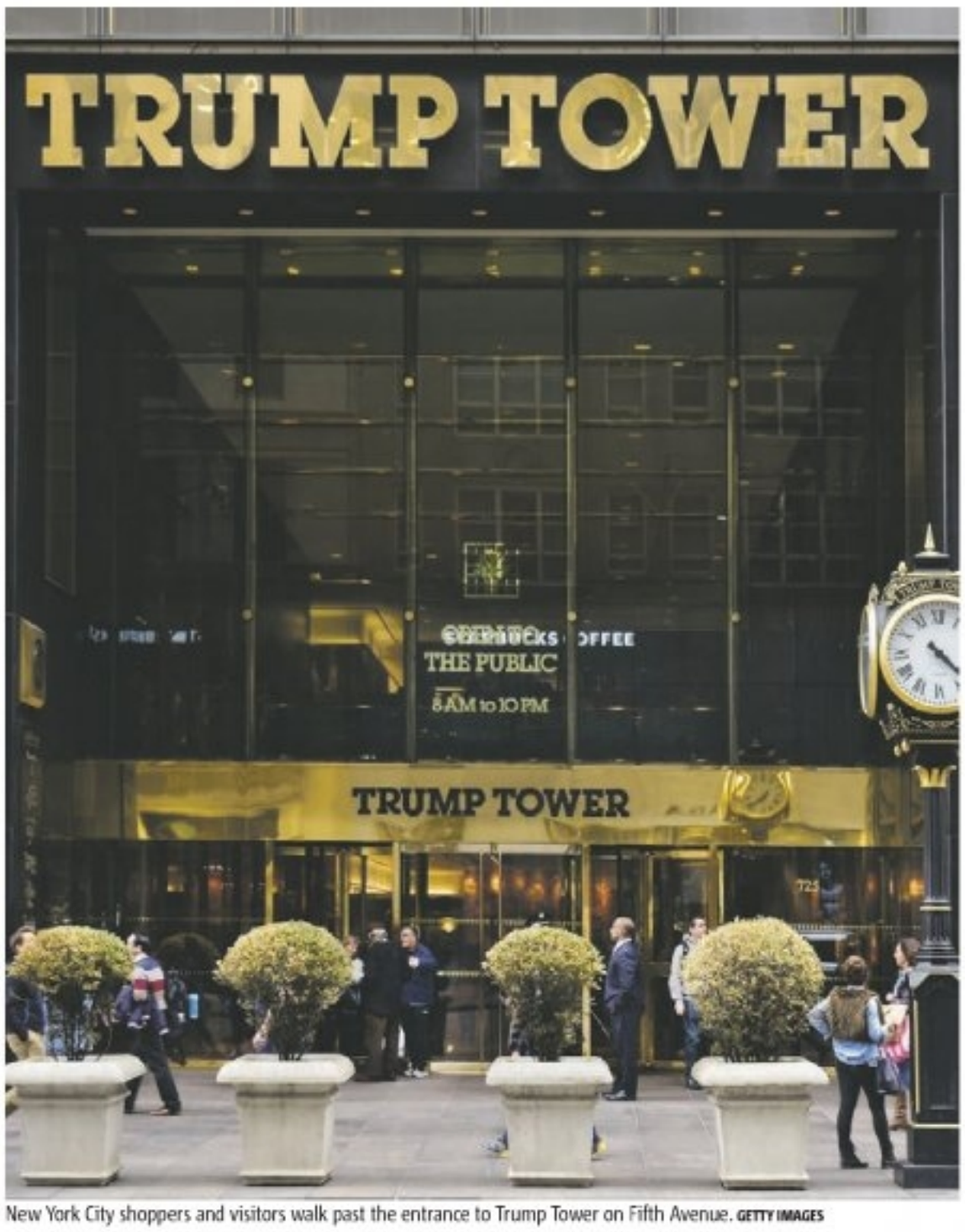

New York City shoppers and visitors walk past the entrance to Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue. GETTY IMAGES

Trump Tower wiretapped — by FBI to nab Russian mafia

An organized crime ring operated out of a unit just three floors below Trump's residence.

It looks like President Donald Trump was right: Trump Tower *was* wiretapped.

However, he and his presidential campaign were not the targets, nor was the wiretap ordered by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Acting on a court-approved warrant, the FBI listened in on a Russian organized crime ring that operated out of Unit 63A — just three stories below Trump's penthouse home — in the Fifth Avenue high-rise.

More than 30 people were indicted by a federal grand jury because of the FBI's two-year investigation, which ran from 2011 to 2013.

One of those indicted in April 2013, noted Russian mafia boss Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov, has been a fugitive ever since, though he was spotted near future President Trump in Moscow at the Miss Universe pageant later that year.

Tokhtakhounov is suspected of heading a ring that, among other things, laundered more than $50 million into the U.S. from Russia, Ukraine and other countries via banks and shell companies based in Cyprus, FBI agent Mike Gaeta told ABC News.

Trump was not implicated in the FBI's investigation, but his namesake skyscraper was under heavy scrutiny due to the activities in 63A, which was the residence of Vadim Trincher. Considered a key figure in the reported crime ring, Trincher pleaded guilty to racketeering and was given a five-year prison sentence. He's slated for release this summer.

In a bombshell tweet earlier this month, Trump accused Obama of tapping "my phones during the very sacred election process." He likened the alleged situation to former President Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal and McCarthyism.

Obama quickly denied the claims, as did intelligence officials. The FBI on Monday said it had no evidence to substantiate Trump's claims.

"With respect to the president's tweets about alleged wiretapping directed at him by the prior administration, I have no information that supports those tweets," FBI Director James Comey said.

REUTERS AND METRO STAFF

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Five dead, at least 20 injured in

The dead included the assailant and the policeman he stabbed, while the other two victims were among those hit by the car as it tore along Westminster Bridge before crashing into railings just outside Parliament.

A police officer outside the Palace of Westminster, London, after a policeman was stabbed. GETTY IMAGES

Police forensic officers arrive to the Palace of Westminster, London, after a policeman was stabbed and his apparent attacker shot by officers in a major security incident at the Houses of Parliament. GETTY IMAGE

Five people were killed and at least 20 injured in London on Wednesday after a car plowed into pedestrians and an attacker stabbed a policeman close to the British Parliament in what police called a "marauding terrorist attack".

Prime Minister Theresa May condemned the attack as "sick and depraved".

"The location of this attack was no accident," she said in a statement outside her Downing Street office late in the evening.

"The terrorist chose to strike at the heart of our capital city, where people of all nationalities, religions and cultures come together to celebrate the values of liberty, democracy and freedom of speech."

Any attempt to defeat those values through violence was "doomed to failure," May said.

Mark Rowley, Britain's most senior counter-terrorism officer, told reporters the attack started when a car was driven over Westminster Bridge, hitting and injuring members of the public and three police officers.

"A car then crashed near to Parliament and at least one man, armed with a knife, continued the attack and tried to enter Parliament," Rowley said.

It was the deadliest attack in London since four British Islamists killed 52 commuters and themselves in suicide bombings on the city's transport system in July 2005, London's worst peacetime attack.

Reuters reporters inside Parliament during Wednesday's attack heard loud bangs and shortly afterward saw the knifeman and the stabbed policeman lying on the ground in a courtyard within the gates of parliament.

A woman was pulled alive, but with serious injuries, from the Thames, the Port of London Authority said. The circumstances of her fall into the river were unknown.

Three French schoolchildren aged 15 or 16 were among those injured in the attack, French officials said.

Several members of parliament (MPs) and senior officials were caught up in the chaos. Tobias Ellwood, a junior Foreign Office minister, was pictured attempting to resuscitate a man lying unconscious, reported to be the stabbed policeman.

> *"The terrorist chose to strike at the heart of our capital city, where people of all nationalities, religions and cultures come together to celebrate the values of liberty, democracy and freedom of speech."*
>
> Prime Minister Theresa May

The attack took place on the first anniversary of attacks by Islamist militants that killed 32 people in Brussels.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said there would be additional police officers on the city streets to keep Londoners and visitors safe.

"We stand together in the face of those who seek to harm us and destroy our way of life. We always have, and we always will. Londoners will never be cowed by terrorism," he said.

Parliament's lower House of Commons, which was in session at the time, was suspended and lawmakers were asked to stay inside the building for several hours.

May said parliament would convene as normal on Thursday in a sign that the attack would not disrupt life in the capital.

However, a visit by Queen Elizabeth to officially open the new headquarters of London's police force, which had been planned for Thursday, was postponed "in light of today's events," Bucking-

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UK parliament 'terrorist' attack

ham Palace said.

In a telephone call with May, President Donald Trump offered Britain the full cooperation and support of the United States, the White House said. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson condemned the attack as "horrific acts of violence".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg were among foreign leaders who expressed shock and solidarity.

Eyewitnesses described scenes of panic during the attack.

"I just saw a car go out of control and just go into pedestrians on the bridge," said Bernadette Kerrigan, who had been on a tour bus on the bridge, in an interview with Sky News.

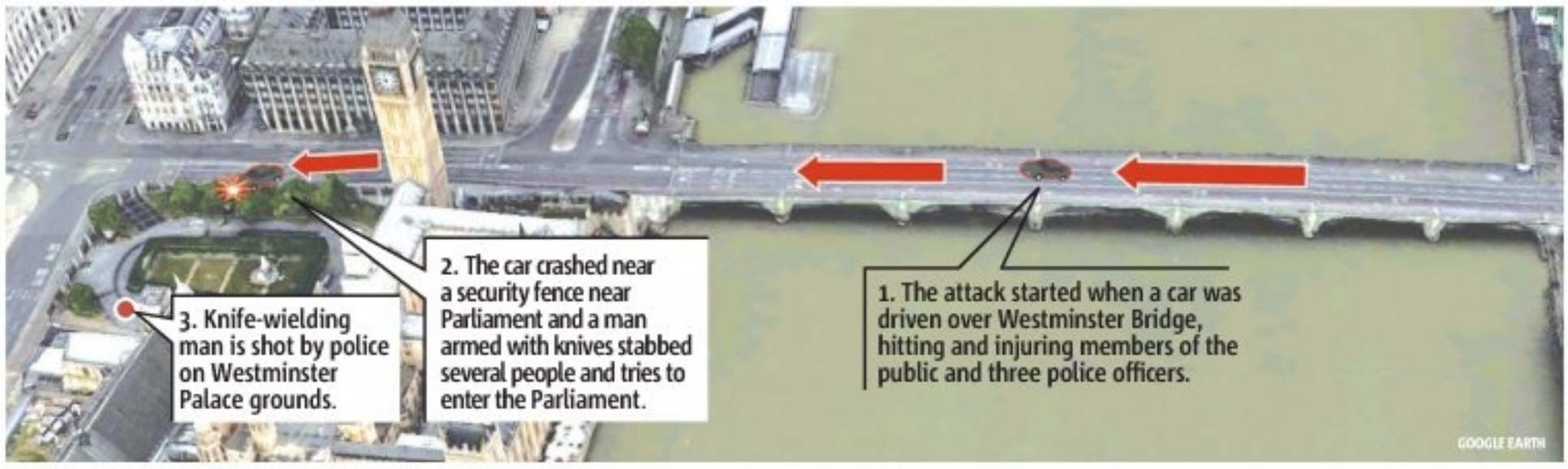
"As we were going across the bridge, we saw people lying on the floor, they were obviously injured. I saw about 10 people maybe. And then the emergency services started to arrive. Everyone was just running everywhere."

Former Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, who witnessed the attack from a taxi as he crossed the bridge, said he saw five victims and made a video of the scene.

"I heard something that sounded like a small car crash. Then I looked out of the window and saw that there was one person lying on the asphalt," he told Reuters.

"I did not see the face of the person lying on the asphalt, but the person was not moving, it was not showing any signs of life. One of the men I saw, his head was bleeding very badly. But the person I filmed — no, that person was not showing any signs of life."

REUTERS


3. Knife-wielding man is shot by police on Westminster Palace grounds.
2. The car crashed near a security fence near Parliament and a man armed with knives stabbed several people and tries to enter the Parliament.
1. The attack started when a car was driven over Westminster Bridge, hitting and injuring members of the public and three police officers.
GOOGLE EARTH

People were trapped on the London Eye for up to an hour after the terror attack on Westminster Bridge.
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White man who wanted to harm blacks arrested in New York stabbing

A white man who police said traveled to New York City to harm black people turned himself in with knives in his pocket at a Manhattan police station on Wednesday, a day after authorities say he fatally stabbed a black man on a city sidewalk.

James Harris Jackson, 28, told police he left his home in Baltimore on Friday and took the bus to New York "because it is the media capital of the world and he wanted to make a statement," Bill Aubrey, a deputy chief at the New York Police Department, told reporters.

On Monday night, Jackson crossed paths with Timothy Caughman, a black man who was rummaging through garbage on a sidewalk in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, according to police.

James Harris Jackson NYPD

A few minutes later, Caughman, 66, staggered into a nearby police station, bleeding from stab wounds to his chest and back. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died.

Jackson turned himself in at a police station in Times Square soon after midnight on Wednesday and was arrested for murder, police said. He had seen images circulated by police from surveillance cameras showing him at the scene, dressed in a black coat, his blond hair combed to one side, police said.

"He said that 'I'm the person that you're looking for,' and he had knives in his pocket," Aubrey told a news conference. "It was revealed that the attack on Timothy Caughman was clearly racially motivated. It is believed that he was specifically intending to target male blacks."

Jackson served as a specialist in the U.S. Army until 2012, and was deployed in Afghanistan for nearly a year beginning in December 2010, an Army spokeswoman said. He was awarded several medals for his conduct, the spokeswoman said.

Jackson was in police custody awaiting a court appearance and could not be reached for comment.

REUTERS

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FRED BEANS REPEATS HISTORIC USED CAR SALE

Doylestown, PA – Fred Beans, CEO and founder of the Fred Beans Automotive Group located in Doylestown, PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, March 25th at 9:00AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **$999**.* This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand.

Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **all 8 Fred Beans Doylestown locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory**.

Along with this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Doylestown features new Ford, Lincoln, Volkswagen, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram, Hyundai, Genesis, Nissan, Subaru, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, and GMC vehicles.

Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

Along with the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices for this sale from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **$999**,* prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, *"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interest."*

Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that's right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of March 24th, after the close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle. Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships has $10 million in lending power, the result of over 50 years of strong relationships with the area's leading lenders. This means that customers with a less-than-perfect credit history can have their credit approved and drive home a quality pre-owned car, truck, or SUV by lunchtime on Saturday.

Even if a customer's credit report shows a bankruptcy, divorce, tax lien, slow payment history, missed payment, or repossession or if a customer is a first-time buyer, Fred Beans may get them approved.

This special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale will be held at all 8 Fred Beans Doylestown locations this Saturday, March 25th at 9:00AM.

Pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as $999.* Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM for the start of inspection. Incredible sale prices, starting as low as **$999**,* will be posted no later than 8:00AM. All vehicles will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships is expecting a high volume of customers for this sale, so be sure to reserve your spot early.

Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.**

Most of these surplus pre-owned vehicles will get sent directly to auto auctions for liquidation. So if anyone has been thinking about purchasing a good, clean, dependable pre-owned car, truck, van, or sport utility vehicle, don't miss this special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale.

Courtesy transportation is available from all local airports, train stations, and bus depots.

For more information about this sale and directions to our locations, please visit us online at **www.999sale.com or call 855-656-0700**

*At least 4 vehicles on Fred Beans lots will be priced at $999. All offers to qualified buyers. Cannot be combined with other offers. **Vehicle subject to inspection. Negative equity carries forward.

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FRED BEANS Ford Lincoln 870 N Easton Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram 858 N Easton Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Chevrolet 845 N Easton Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Cadillac Buick GMC 841 N Easton Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Volkswagen 3700 N Easton Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Subaru 830 N Easton Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Hyundai/Genesis 4465 W Swamp Rd, Doylestown	FRED BEANS Nissan 4489 W Swamp Rd, Doylestown

Poll: One in three US Muslims fear for safety in Trump era

More than one in three U.S. Muslims fear they could be targeted by white supremacist groups following President Donald Trump's election and 42 percent say their children have been bullied in school because of their faith, a survey found.

That fear contributes to a lower-than-average rate of voting by adult Muslim citizens, according to a study released on Monday by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding.

Cracking down on what he called "radical Islamic terrorists" and restricting travel from certain Middle Eastern countries have been major elements of Trump's presidency.

The study found that 38 percent of Muslims feared they could be victimized by white supremacist groups, a rate far higher than other major religions, and nearly one in five had made plans to leave the United States "if it becomes necessary."

38%

of Muslims fear they could be victimized by white supremacist groups.

By comparison, 27 percent of Jews, 11 percent of Protestants and 8 percent of Roman Catholics and 16 percent of the religiously unaffiliated voiced such concerns.

Forty-two percent of Muslims say their school-aged children had been bullied because of their faith, more than quadruple the rate of the general population. One in four cases involved a teacher, the survey found.

Just 61 percent of Muslims said they had voted in the 2016 presidential election, fewer than any other major religious group or the public at large, according to the survey of 2,389 people conducted Jan. 4 through Jan. 23.

One in three Muslims who did not vote said it was because they did not like any of the candidates.

The survey had a margin of error of 5.1 percent among Muslims and 2.8 percent for the general public.

The survey period concluded three days after Trump took office and before actions, including presidential executive orders, to restrict travel from certain majority-Muslim countries.

At least four U.S. mosques, in Texas, Florida and Washington, have been the target of arson this year. Jewish Community Centers across the nation have been subject to more than 100 bomb threats — all of which have been hoaxes. REUTERS

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Brad Pitt makes sculptures, talks to Angelina sometimes

Stop the presses! Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are on speaking terms now.

People reports that the two are making peace and have talked to each other directly. It's been six months since their epic separation last September. A source tells the mag Pitt is much happier now, thank you very much. "He's relieved that things are not playing out in public anymore." Me, too! It was getting messy AF.

"He's always been extremely positive about how Angie's a good mother, and the goal was to resolve everything for the kids and the whole family," the source continues.

Meanwhile, Daily Mail is very exclusively reporting that Pitt is spending his spare time making sculptures and listening to Bon Iver. So emo!

Congrats to these two adults for getting it together. I'm very proud.

the word

RACHAEL CLEMMONS
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Poor Lena Dunham can't catch a break

Lena Dunham is saying words again.

The 30-year-old recently opened up on "Ellen" about how mean people are being to her about losing weight. Mmkay, pumpkin. "It's just so crazy because I spent six years of my career being called things like 'bag of milk' on the internet," Dunham told Ellen DeGeneres earlier this week. OK, yeah, "bag of milk" is rude. Nobody wants to be called a bag of milk, probably.

Some people have called the writer and actress a hypocrite because they felt like her weight loss goes against like, her whole brand. "I had this experience of my body changing and suddenly I had all these people being like, 'You're a hypocrite, I thought you were body positive,'" she says. "I was frustrated by it because it really was evidence that as a woman in Hollywood, you just can't win."

Later in the interview, Dunham put her leg behind her head and told Ellen, "You can't do this in front of anyone without them thinking, she's probably pretty good at sex."

As always, Lena Dunham is her own greatest enemy.

Jake Gyllenhaal plus Ryan Reynolds equals bromance

Jake Gyllenhaal and Ryan Reynolds are working hard to let you know that A) they really enjoyed working together on set of "Life," a new age "Alien" rip off; and B) that they are just so very fond of each other and nothing — not even a desperate plea from Blake Lively herself — will stop them.

According to Daily Mail, Gyllenhaal, 36, said they were scolded by producers and told that all of their goofing off on set was wasting money. Both Gyllenhaal and Reynolds, 40, found this to be just hilarious. Mmm, there's nothing quite like a grown man who needs a stern talking to for childish behavior. Sign me up!

Then, the two hunky brosephs got together with Wired to answer the web's most-searched questions about themselves. Reynolds uses swamp water to style his hair! Gyllenhaal does his own stunts, unless they're too dangerous — then he doesn't! They're having such a great time just laughing with each other and it's not remotely insufferable, I promise.

"Life" comes out March 24 and is not based on the cereal or the board game.

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Belle, Mulan, Tiana and other Disney princesses may team up, Avengers-style, in a new film. DISNEY

Mixed feelings over the Disney Princesses Avengers movie

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

There is allegedly a spec script floating around Hollywood called "Princesses," which has fairy-tale princesses teaming up à la the Avengers. It immediately piqued my interest, in both positive and negative ways.

I was a Disney fan as a kid. Though I never aspired to be a princess (unless we're talking about Princess Leia), I certainly loved the films. And yet there was something that bothered me, even as a kid. I wanted to be an actress, an astronaut, a writer, a paleontologist, an anthropologist. None of the princesses when I was a kid ended up doing anything other than being the wife of some prince. It wasn't until I was much older that we got Belle, Elsa, Mulan, etc. I would have loved them as a kid, but they just weren't there yet.

Then I thought about the fact that, though I didn't aspire to be a princess, I did enjoy watching them. I thought about kids I know who love those stories. I thought about my initial reaction to "DC Superhero Girls," which was, "Why are we separate from the boys?" Then one of the writers told me it was her goal to make sure little girls knew all the female DC superheroes and how empowering they were. I was willing to change my mind.

Looking at the way Disney princesses have changed, I fell in love with this idea of "princesses." There is something powerful about seeing a character that may once have been weak or who thought only about her prince change into something kick-ass. How cool would it be to see Snow White be something other than a housekeeper for dwarves?

There is no way we'd accept a weak princess anymore. Now we have the amazing Tiana from "The Princess and the Frog." We have the new Rapunzel. Emma Watson's Belle is not just the well-read, strong princess from the animated film. Now we see her teaching other girls to read and not being OK with captivity.

I would love to see these ladies team up and save the world. I'd love to see them change the perceptions of even more little girls. I'd love to see them live up to Princess Leia. So, go for it. Bring us an Avengers-style princess film. Princesses assemble!

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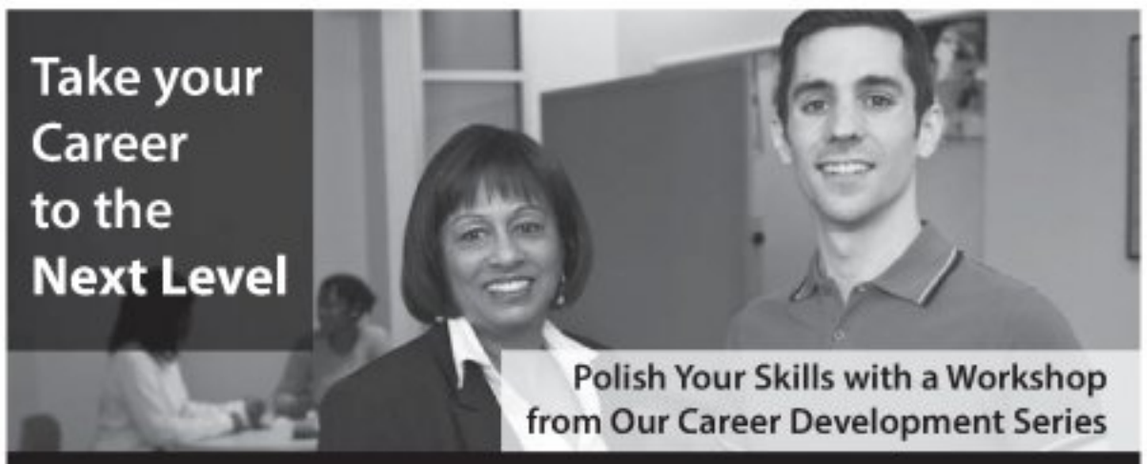

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Meet 'Power Rangers' co-star Naomi Scott

A new Hollywood "it" talks about making her big screen debut.

MATT PRIGGE
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Naomi Scott had a big problem while making "Saban's Power Rangers": There was a pizzeria under the apartment she was staying in.

"It was the best pizza in Vancouver, and the best gelato. It's the worst combination when you're trying to be strict," the actress recalls. "Every now and again and I'd treat myself to a pizza."

Scott still kept in shape while making the new blockbuster, which reboots the '90s children's show about a quintet of superpowered high schoolers who fight big monsters, sometimes while joined together as one big robot, "Voltron"-style. But Scott refuses to adhere to the idea of starving yourself to look fit.

"You pick your days. It's all about having balance. Was I stricter than normal? Yes. But it was also very difficult because you're doing long hours and you're going from night shoots to day shoots. You need the energy. You can't be eating just leaves," she tells us. "I don't like to deprive myself. I'm good at being strict and I know what I have to do to stay in shape. But on a weekend I'll try something. I'm going to have a dessert."

Naomi Scott (far left, with RJ Cyler, Dacre Montgomery, Ludi Lin and Becky G.) graduates to the Hollywood big leagues as one of the lead quintet in "Saban's Power Rangers," in theaters tomorrow. KIMBERLEY FRENCH

GETTY

"Power Rangers" is Scott's second big Hollywood movie, but her first in a co-lead role. (She had a small part in "The Martian.") She plays Kimberly, aka the one that gets the pink spandex body suit. The new film isn't exactly a gritty reboot, but it does try to add some seriousness to the smackdown fun. Kimberly is one of five teens who are tasked with becoming defenders of Earth, and must battle an alien invader named Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth Banks.)

Kimberly is a strong female character, but Scott wishes we didn't have to have the discussion about how Hollywood should create meatier roles for women.

"It's a conversation that obviously needs to happen, but it's crazy because it shouldn't need to be," Scott says. "It's like, 'We have to talk about it, but why?'"

That said, while Scott, 23, doesn't have vivid memories of watching the show as a kid, she does remember one thing that made it ahead-of-the-curve: its casually diverse cast, with different genders and ethnicities.

"What I do remember is playing 'Power Rangers.' And the reason I was very excited to play it was that there were girls. That's something so simple, but it's actually really important. That's why so many girls still like it," Scott says. Back then, there weren't many superpowered female characters on television. "There was 'Wonder Woman,' the old school one, but there wasn't a lot."

On Queen Meryl

Scott, born in London, where she still lives, has been acting since her teens, having had roles on "Terra Nova" and, recently, the British detective show "Lewis." She cites as influences the likes of Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Rachel Weisz.

"The actresses I look up to, a lot of them aren't necessarily young. They're over 40, because I always look at the careers they've paved for themselves," she explains. "These women do such good work, and do so unapologetically. They don't even have to talk about being strong. They just do what they do, and the work speaks for itself. That's what I look to do."

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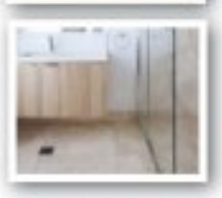

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The right suit can make all the difference when it comes to getting your next job. When you're unemployed and short on cash, however, investing in a new wardrobe is the last thing on your mind.

For the second year in a row, Brian Lipstein, president and founder of Henry A. Davidsen: Master Tailors and Image Consultants, is spearheading a suit drive for local nonprofit Career Wardrobe. By April 6, the goal is to encourage Philadelphians to donate 1,000 suit-related items to the initiative.

"Based on last year's overwhelming success we are excited to support such a worthy organization again," says Lipstein. "Career Wardrobe outfits these men from head to toe so they can walk into a job interview not only looking the part but feeling confident, which is in line with what we do here at Henry A. Davidsen."

The drive is accepting suits, ties, jackets, shirts, pants, belts and shoes in support of local unemployed men in the Philadelphia area.

To help spread the word, be sure to use the hashtag #HDSuitDrive on social media when you donate.

Henry A. Davidsen is located at 1701 Spruce St.

Items can be dropped off at the following locations:

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JENNIFER LOGUE
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If you're in Philadelphia, it would be a travesty to not experience an authentic Philly cheesesteak. Its thinly sliced pieces of cheese-covered beef, encased in a long crusty hoagie roll have made Philly famous. With tomorrow being National Cheesesteak Day, we thought it would be helpful to put together a guide to eating cheesesteaks here that includes not only tried and true favorites, but also vegan options and under-the-radar gems. So loosen your belt and get ready to pack on a pound or two — it's time to eat!

Old Favorites

Pat's King of Steaks
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patskingofsteaks.com
The foodstuff dates back to 1930, when Pat Olivieri created the steak sandwich, which later morphed into the cheesesteak. Pat's King of Steaks is still owned and operated by the Olivieri family, so it doesn't get much more authentic than that. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, they offer a plain steak sandwich, cheesesteak, pizza steak, pepper steak, mushroom steak and more from one of the most famous cheesesteak shops in the world.

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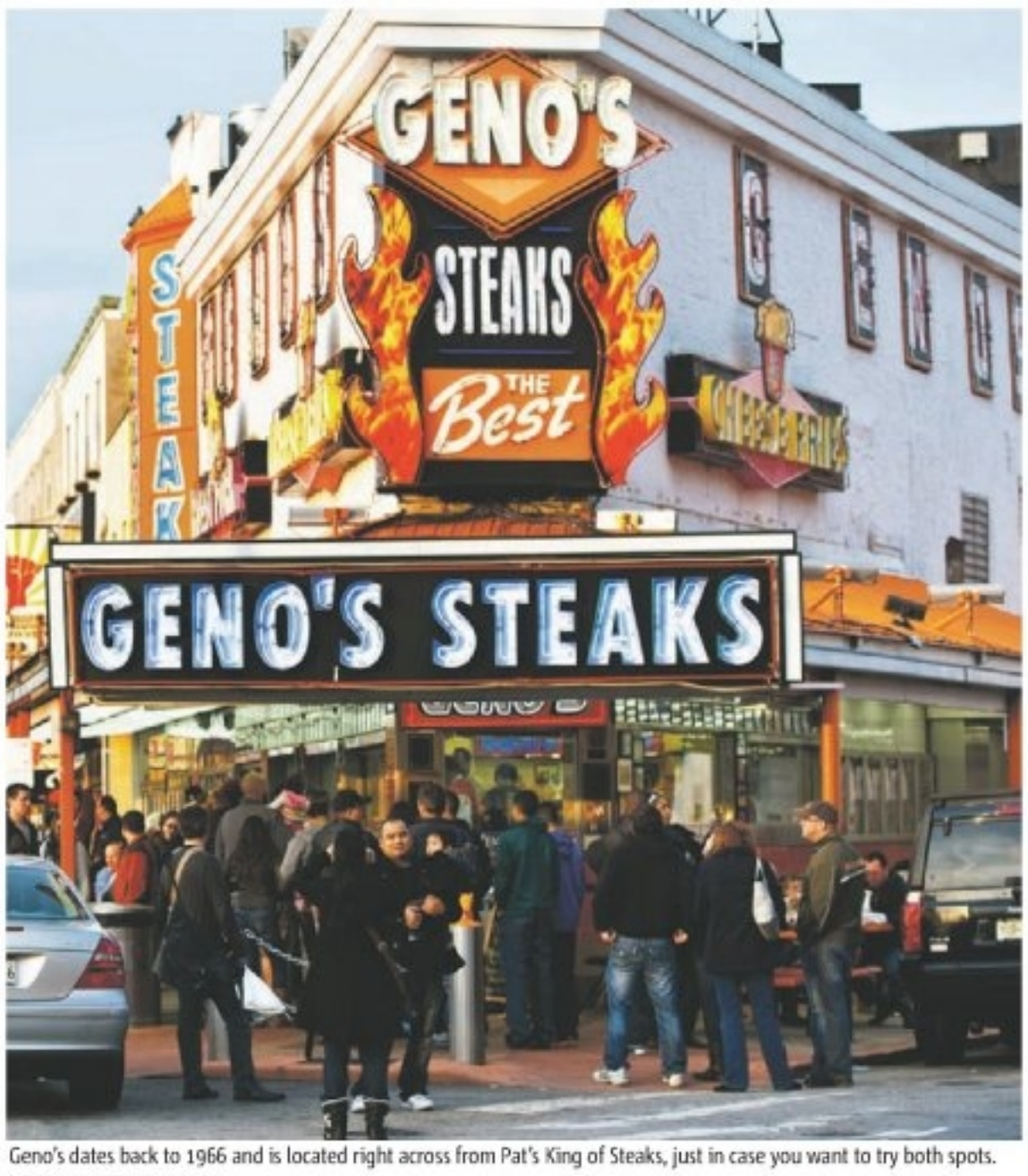
1219 S. 9th St.
genossteaks.com
Right across from Pat's King of Steaks is Geno's, founded in 1966 by Joey Vento whose son, Geno, now oversees the family business. Like Pat's, it's open 24-7 and offers a range of cheesesteak options as well as hoagies and roast pork sandwiches. Their website boasts many celebrities that stopped by for a bite like Justin Timberlake, Elton John and Jessica Simpson.

Jim's Steaks
400 South St.
jimssteaks.com
Jim's Steaks is nearly as old as Pat's, founded in 1939 at its original West Philly location (431 N. 62nd St.), which is still open today. Its South Street location is probably the most iconic, open since 1976 at the heart of Philly's most famous street. Jim's has also expanded to the Northeast as well as Delaware County over the years.

Unusual Suspects

Square 1682
121 S. 17th St.
square1682.com
So you're in town for business and don't have time for a cheesesteak expedition? Not to worry. Square 1682 in Center City has an upscale cheesesteak on the lunch menu that hits all the right notes. The Chef Bobby Surdam special



Geno's dates back to 1966 and is located right across from Pat's King of Steaks, just in case you want to try both spots.
J. FUSCO FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

features short rib with roasted peppers, onion jam and cheddar cheese sauce. It even comes with fries.

The Little Lion
243 Chestnut St.
thelittlelionphilly.com
Dying to have a Philly cheesesteak but on a trip with a diversity of eaters? The Little Lion in Old City has an extensive menu of comfort food favorites to satisfy everyone in your entourage. Their rib-eye cheesesteak is covered with wild mushrooms, caramelized onions, horseradish cream and sharp cheddar and also comes with fries. Wash it down with one of their craft beers and you'll be fueled for a day of sightseeing.

Barclay Prime
237 S. 18th St.
barclayprime.com
If you feel like having a really ritzy cheesesteak, it doesn't get much more luxe than the $120 option at Barclay Prime in Rittenhouse. It comes with wagyu rib-eye, foie gras, truffled cheese whiz served on a freshly baked sesame roll. You'll even get half of a bottle of champagne with your meal, to help you wash down all that fancy truffled cheese whiz.

Vegan Options

Blackbird Pizzeria
507 S. 6th St.
blackbirdpizzeria.com
No meat? No dairy? No problem. Blackbird Pizzeria near South Street routinely gets praised for having the best vegan cheesesteak in the city. Seared seitan is topped with rosemary and garlic grilled onions, green peppers, vegan whiz (yes, that's a thing) and it comes served on an artisanal hoagie roll.

Hip City Veg
121 S. Broad St., 214 S. 40th St., 127 S. 18th St.
hipcityveg.com
This Philly-based chain of fast, wholesome vegan fare is rapidly expanding, and it's easy to see why. Its food is so good, even non-vegans love it. Their Philly Steak sandwich (pulled "steak," grilled onion, mushroom, lettuce, tomato on a long whole wheat roll) is a popular menu item. The only thing: Organic ketchup is used instead of Cheese Whiz, so technically it's just a vegan steak sandwich. We're not complaining, though!

Tattooed Mom
530 S. Street
tattooedmomphilly.com
If your friends want to get their cheesesteak fix at Jim's, you can walk down a block to Tattooed Mom on South Street for their Philly vegan steak sandwich. The quirky bar/restaurant has personality for days and there are non-vegan/vegetarian options as well.

Feeling fancy? Try the $120 cheesesteak at Barclay Prime. PROVIDED

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SIGNS OF SPRING

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Play-A-Palooza

Fairmount Park's beloved and massive Smith Memorial Playground officially opens for the season this weekend, marking one of the first signs of spring in Philadelphia. Little ones are free to run wild around the 6 ½-acre playground and in the 16,000-square-foot Playhouse, taking an occasional break for special activities like a nature exploration, carnival games, and arts and crafts workshops.
March 25, noon-4 p.m.
Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse
3500 Reservoir Drive
$10-$100, smithplayground.org

Fishtown Chili Cook Off

Bowl-of-chili season may be in our rearview mirror, but Fishtown Neighbors Association gears up for one more celebration of that spicy, soul-warming goodness at their seventh annual Chili Cook Off. Working chefs and everyday residents alike face off in the competition that seeks to find the best bowl of chili in the Riverwards. Your ticket lets you try unlimited recipes, and enjoy some extra delights, like live music from You Do You and Rock the Future, and free Weckerly's Ice Cream.
March 26, 12:30-3 p.m.
The Fillmore Philadelphia
29 E. Allen St.
$10-$20, fishtown.org

YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

MUSIC

Driftwood Soldier

On their latest EP, "Blessings & Blasphemy," West Philly folk duo Driftwood Soldier explore the spiritual power of music and the sometimes oppressive nature of organized religion. They do this through a mixture of reinterpreted traditional gospel hymns and tunes that are decidedly anti-religious. They debut the work this weekend during a night of song and storytelling at L'Etage with a host of other Philly musicians, like Katy Otto, Natalie Butts, Liana Moskowitz and Chenda Cope.
March 24, 7-9 p.m.
L'Etage,624 S. Sixth St.
$11, driftwoodsoldier.com

Flat Mary Road

Influenced by late-1980s indie rock and Appalachian folk, Philadelphia five-piece Flat Mary Road effectively create songs that recall both the urban experience and country living. They stop by Ortlieb's Saturday night to share songs from their latest full-length "Driving with the Numen," which is, among other things, informed by road trips across the States.
March 25, 8-11 p.m.
Ortlieb's, 847 N. Third St.
$10, ortliebslounge.com

TEENS

'Screenagers' Screening

Catch a screening of the new documentary "Screenagers," courtesy of local nonprofit Girls on the Run Philadelphia. The movie analyzes the impact internet addiction can have on young minds, and offers some tips on how parents can help their screen-glued teens find balance in the digital age. A discussion panel following the film features feedback and insight from parents, teens and academics.
March 23, 6:30 p.m.
Community College of Philadelphia
1700 Spring Garden St.
$5-$10, gotrphiladelphia.org

Sleep Out: Young Professionals Edition

It's perhaps the ultimate show of support: Friday night more than 100 Philadelphians will grab a cardboard box and sleep in a parking lot in Germantown to raise money for local homeless youth shelter Covenant House PA. The event seeks to raise $125,000 to buy more beds for the shelter— ensuring that no youth in need of a place to stay is turned away. There's still time to sign up. All attendees are asked to raise a minimum of $1,000.
March 24, 7 p.m.-7 a.m.
The Friends Center,
1501 Cherry St.
Donation-based,
covenanthousepa.org

MUSIC

JONATHAN HERNANDEZ

Philly Made

The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus have been crooning in this city for 35 years. This weekend, they mark the milestone with three shows that celebrate all things Philadelphia music. The concert features 1950s-era "American Bandstand" songs and more-modern hits from local-bred songsters like Boyz II Men, Taylor Swift, Hall & Oates and Pink.
March 24-25
Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut St.
$27.50-$62, pgmc.org

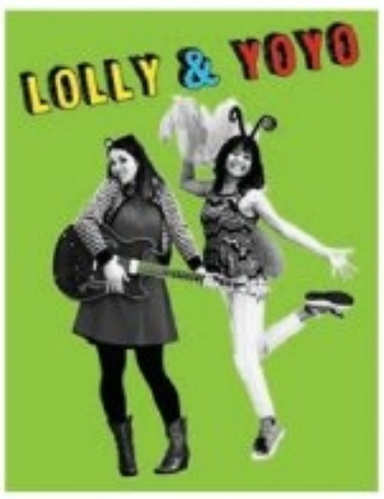
Teen Comic-Con

Youth aged 12 to 19 are invited to the Free Library Saturday for the third annual Teen Comic-Con. The free event promises lots of fun, nerdy to-dos, like teen-led discussion panels on superheroes and manga, a gallery of original comic- and video game-inspired graphic art and a cosplay fashion show.
March 25, 10 a.m.
Free Library of Philadelphia
1901 Vine St.
Free, freelibrary.org

JOSH MIDDLETON

Sundays on Stage

A series of cultural programs featuring live performances by a variety of artists and entertainers. These family programs celebrate diversity through music, dance, storytelling, and more.



March 26
MOVE with Lolly and Yoyo

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Get an early start to summer in Tampa

We've got ideas for your trip to Florida's emerging family friendly destination.

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With March going out like a lion, it's the perfect time to escape the cold for the subtropical climes of Tampa. The Florida city is particularly good for families, who can enjoy the warm weather and an endless array of activities, plus bargains.

For those looking to experience the best of Tampa, check out CityPass, which is a thrifty way to take in some of the most popular attractions. CityPass ($106 for adults, $96 for children 3-9) offers considerable bang for the buck, with deals like 51 percent off full-price attraction tickets.

Thanks to CityPass, we braved the thrilling dive coaster Sheikra at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, swam with the sharks and touched the rays at the Florida Aquarium, and eyeballed the Bornean orangutans at Lowry Park Zoo, which was named the Best Family Friendly Zoo by Parents magazine. We also mixed in an education excursion to Museum of Science and Industry, which has more than 450 exhibits and live science demonstrations.

The Glazer Children's Museum is all about hands-on play. There are 170 interactive exhibits in the bright, 53,000-square-foot facility, designed to help children discover their world through play via rock climbing walls, a firehouse and a replica of a biplane, among many other exhibits.

The museum is right next to Tampa's new Riverwalk, a scenic 2.4-mile stretch that's a haven for joggers, bicyclists and sun worshippers along the East Hillsborough River. Children gather at a new playground, while adults relax along the romantic docks and canopies.

Just off the shore there are eight restaurants, four museums and 18 historical monuments along Riverwalk. Annual events like the Gasparilla Concert Festival and RiverFest, which is slated for May 6-7, take advantage of downtown's newest addition.

It's never too early to expose kids to art. Every Saturday the Tampa of Museum of Art hosts a free drop-in program for children and families who would like to work on art projects inspired by the museum's vast collection.

How to spend a day

Bike the bay: Rent a water cycle from Tampa Bay Water Bike Company and navigate the East Hillsborough. It's easy, safe and a great way to see the beautiful beaches.

See a Broadway show: With an adult ticket, kids 12 and under get in free to Broadway shows at the David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts. "The King and I" is slated for May 2-7, "Finding Neverland" will run May 30-June 4, and "The Little Mermaid" is set for July 11-16.

Beat the heat: Adventure Island, Tampa's top waterpark, offers 30 acres of fun with tons of slides and pools.

Florida Aquarium PROVIDED

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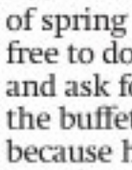
It's all included

The view at Moon Palace Resort and Spa in Jamaica ALL PHOTOS DANA SINERATE

What all-inclusive resorts are doing to attract millennials and shed their Baby Boomer image.



RACHEL RACZKA
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rachel.raczka@metro.us

When you leave the arrivals gates at Sangster International Airport in Jamaica, to your immediate left is a wood-paneled porch featuring the Sandals Resorts International logo. Moms and dads in tropical print shirts hang by the front door, cocktails in hand, waiting for their transport to the ubiquitous all-inclusive resort, about a 15-minute drive away.

This is what we often picture when we think of all-inclusive resorts: post-retirement parental units in sensible swimwear with a strong rum cocktail, protected from the booze-fueled ruckus of spring breakers, free to do the conga and ask for seconds at the buffet at all hours — because heck, you're on vacation!

Not shockingly, this is not appealing to many millennials. While experts predicted that the all-inclusive industry would see a rise in business come 2017, consider this: What are the resorts doing to appeal to the non-Boomer traveler?

In shedding the polarizing label of "budget travel," all-inclusive resorts are changing up their offerings to be as appealing and accommodating to 20-somethings as they are to families of four. They're ramping up their luxury amenities, exclusivity, and, yes, even their cool factor.

They're getting you off campus

A big concern for some young travelers is expecting an all-inclusive to have a similar vibe to a cruise ship: There's no reason to ever leave during the duration of your trip — and in some instances, you just plain can't.

At the **Moon Palace Jamaica Grande**, which sits along the largest private strip of white sand beach in Ocho Rios, guests are encouraged to explore the neighboring sights. Excursions like horseback riding through Papillion Cove and visits to Konoko Falls in St. Ann can be arranged (with transportation) through the hotel's concierge.

Even in the tropics, you gotta have coffee.

Meanwhile, somewhere like **Blackberry Farm** — an alternative all-inclusive that trades sun and sand for Southern charm in Walland, Tennessee — offers special sportsman weekends taking guests on a three-day hunt (with meals and lodging included, of course) at Alabama's Sawtooth Plantation in the company of their staff — providing the comforts of their inclusive offerings, with the excitement of off-the-beaten-path travel.

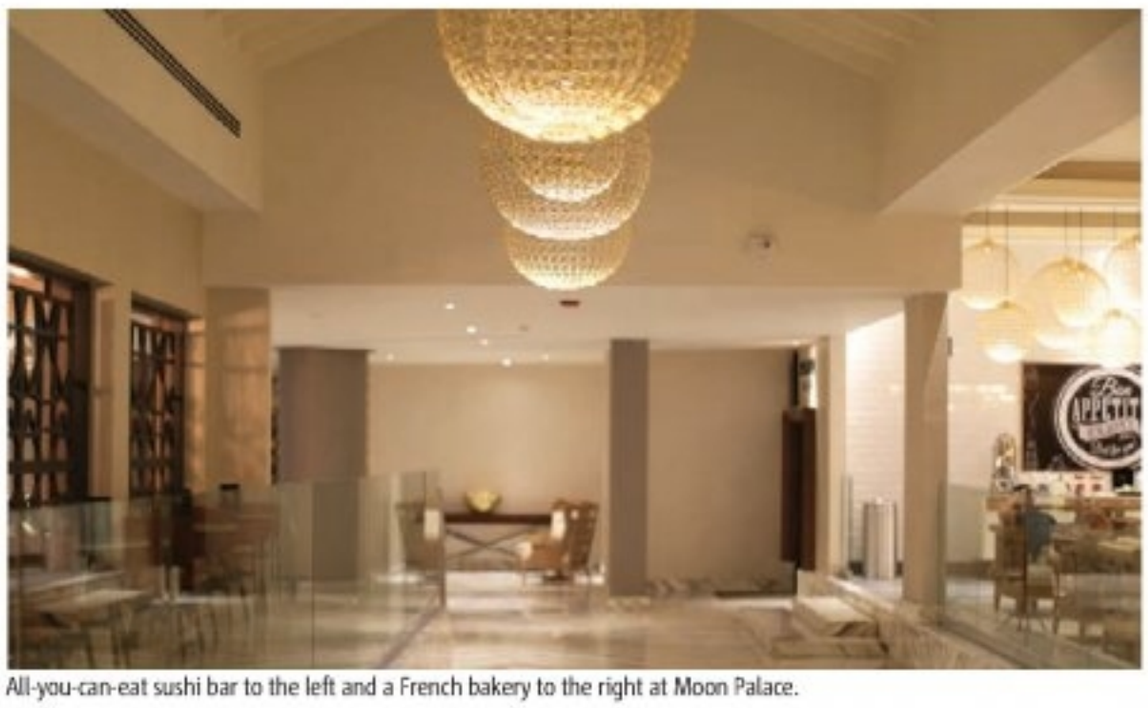
Premium culinary offerings

Adults-only, all-inclusive **UNICO 20°87° Hotel Riviera Maya** rotates celebrity chefs through its kitchens, with Christian Bravo of "Top Chef Mexico" arriving this month. The resort's all-day dining concept will be accompanied by beachside pop-ups like a paletas stand or hand-delivered oyster and Mezcal shots.

At Moon Palace, the premium dining experience includes the recent addition of Certified Angus Beef throughout their culinary program, which varies from hibachi to 24-hour room service — 2 a.m. craving for jerk chicken? Also on site is the Parisian-inspired Boulangerie, where latte art and pristinely made sweets are served through the night.

Boutique experience

Moon Palace is, as the name suggests, palatial, but it also wants you to feel at ease. The signature scent pumped through the hotel immediately registers as Le Labo's unmistakably cool fragrance, Santal 33. (It's not — their team calls it a mixture of aromatherapies, but it's damn close.) And especially important to the brand-conscious set, gone are the generic dopp kits (each room comes with a CHI straightener, plus heat-protectant products to save your hair from all those pool and ocean dips) and mini bars for sensible boozing with four full-size top shelf bottles, refilled daily.



All-you-can-eat sushi bar to the left and a French bakery to the right at Moon Palace.

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How marijuana could save football

Marijuana remains one of the eight drugs banned by the NFL.

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matthew.burke@metro.us

Fans can smoke marijuana in Denver before Broncos games, but players can't. GETTY IMAGES

America's longtime drug of choice could very well end up saving America's longtime sport of choice.

The sport of football must find a solution (or solutions) to its concussion problem or risk becoming what boxing and horse racing are today — largely irrelevant despite a decades-long boom period in the United States.

More and more reports are saying that marijuana can — in a healthy way — help alleviate the pain that so many current and former football players experience. Not only can it help take away the pain from the daily nicks, bruises and bumps that players suffer from an opposing player's helmet off the shin or a facemask in the forearm, it is also becoming increasingly clear that it can help treat CTE, a progressive degenerative disease in the brain caused by trauma.

Cannabidiol, one of over 100 chemical compounds found in cannabis, is said to help stabilize the brain after injury.

"There may only be a few brain cells that are injured to the point of no return [during trauma]," Michael Hoffer, professor of otolaryngology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, told The Atlantic in December. "There are a lot of brain cells at risk right around those cells. If we can stabilize those we can prevent the dominos from falling."

Pills vs. pot

Former Arizona Cardinals and Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer has been at the forefront of a campaign called When the Bright Lights Fade, which is raising money for studies exploring how the use of cannabidiol can help treat and prevent the onset of symptoms associated with CTE.

"I'd say 80 to 90 percent of NFL players are on some kind of drug to get them through the pain and the stress and the anxiety of playing a full football season," Plummer told Metro. "And when these players are done playing, I'd say 80 to 90 percent of them continue on high priced meds for most of the rest of their lives. Whether it's cannabis or Percocet or whatever — there's a lot of drugs in the league."

Plummer is convinced that marijuana is infinitely more safe than the other pain relievers that players use.

"It's the healthiest option … that's what we'd like people to understand," he said. "I know numerous guys who have smoked their whole career, and even some that fall into that 10 to 20 percent of guys that don't take any drugs — except for cannabis.

"I think there's more and more proof coming out that it's a definite benefit. It's obviously helping these players get through the season."

"We're talking about grown adults that should have a choice in medicine, being allowed the freedom to choose it without punishment." Jake Plummer

Stoner stigma

Marijuana remains one of the eight drugs banned by the NFL and has led to fines and suspensions for many of its players. Plummer claims that the NFL knows that marijuana is a healthier alternative to many prescription pain drugs, but that the league doesn't want to take a PR hit for easing up on weed.

"We're fighting a stigma [about marijuana] that started back in the 1930s," Plummer said. "The NFL wants their players to be role models. They want their players to be what kids strive to be. So when you come out and say these players are using cannabis, they're afraid that that'll send the wrong message to these young kids that, 'cannabis is good, you should use it. You should use it no matter what.' But that's not what we're doing."

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The Eagles should consider taking an offensive lineman

The Eagles need more than just a running back and cornerback from this year's NFL draft.

LUKE MILLER
@LukeFM7
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Running back! Wide receiver! Cornerback! Now that we've gotten that out of our system, check out our preview of a few other positions receiving far too little coverage in the run-up to the draft.

The age of the Eagles offensive line, which the team ignored in the draft for a few years after selecting Lane Johnson at the top of the first round, has been a concern the past few seasons. But while the line doesn't yet feel significantly different, that worry is fairly in the past. The additions of Chance Warmack (25 years old) and Brandon Brooks (27) at guard the last two offseasons have helped, especially if Warmack's addition allows last year's third-round pick Isaac Seumalo (23) to compete for the starting position at center. To every writer's distress, Halapoulivaati Vaitai (23) might become a capable starter at tackle.

So the Eagles are good to ignore the position in the draft for the next couple years again, right? That probably wouldn't be the best course of action. We haven't seen Seumalo at center yet — but if he isn't the solution at center, one is still needed. Jason Peters is admirably defeating Father Time, but the latter remains undefeated and Johnson is one PED offense away from a two-year suspension. The Eagles can't have enough depth at tackle.

The needs aren't critical enough (and there are critical needs elsewhere) to think the Eagles will be planning to look here on day one. They did meet with first-round-graded Forrest Lamp at the combine, however. Lamp played left tackle for four years at Western Kentucky but is projected as a guard in the NFL due to his size: 6-foot-4, 309 pounds. It may not be the best fit, but just remember: The Eagles prize versatility and athleticism in their linemen. In his final bowl game, Lamp scored on a designed tackle screen. Mike Mayock ranks Lamp as the best interior line prospect.

Western Michigan's Taylor Moton and LSU's Ethan Pocic are a pair the Eagles have also been linked with who will probably go off the board sometime the second day. Moton is similar to Lamp in that he spent most of his time in college at tackle but played guard in 2015 and has been scouted at both positions. He's a little larger (6-foot-5, 319 pounds). Both contributed heavily to their smaller programs' recent success. Again, his versatility will appeal to Philadelphia, as will the fact that he started every game the last four years. Their line could use that consistency.

If their "best player available" strategy means taking an offensive lineman, the Eagles should. GETTY IMAGES

Pocic brings the versatility to the inside of the line. The consensus-best center prospect, Pocic is unusually tall for the center spot (6-foot-6, 291 pounds) and has used that size to play all across the line. He didn't take the combine by storm, and that, combined with his frame, could provide some leverage problems working against NFL defensive tackles.

If you're looking for a late round prospect, the Eagles have paid significant attention to UCLA players in recent years (and this one, see one Fabian Moreau) and they met with tackle Conor McDermott at the combine. McDermott didn't do the bench press at the combine, and strength is the major concern, surprisingly, for this massive 6-foot-8, 307 pound player.

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NCAA Sweet 16 preview: What not to miss when the Madness begins again

RICH SLATE
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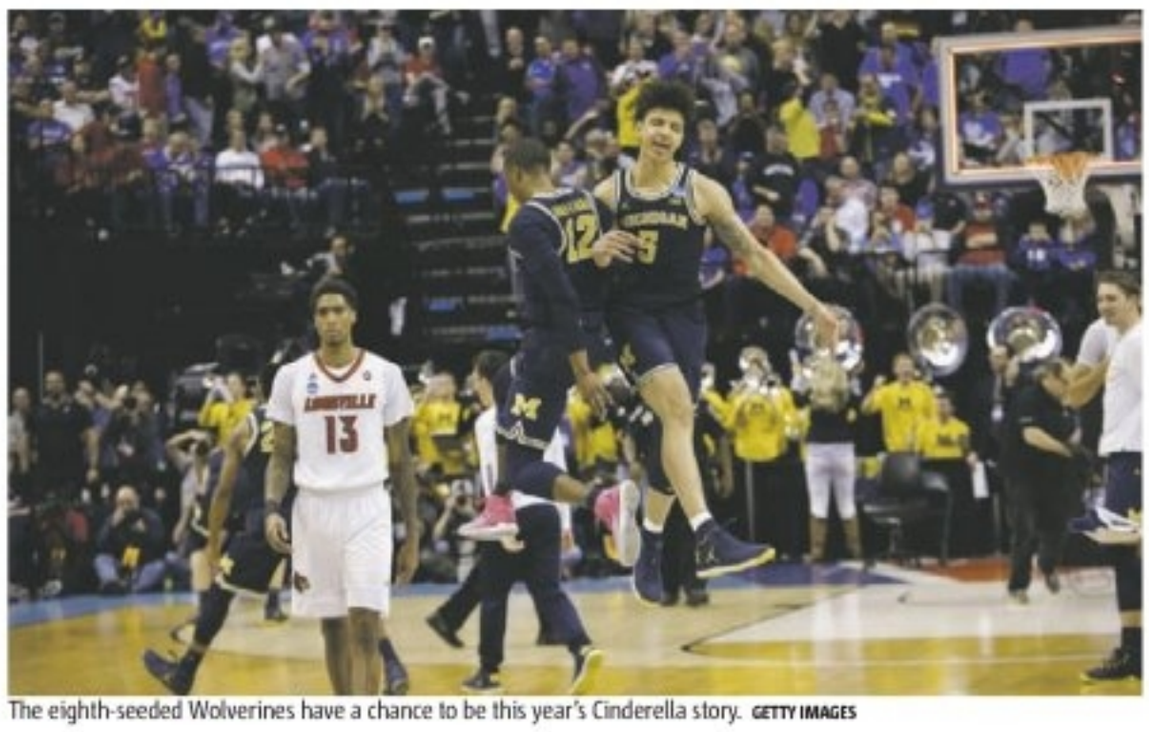
The Sweet 16 begins on Thursday with the Midwest and West Regionals and as is usually the case, there are basically nothing but heavyweight programs left.

No. 3 Oregon (31-5) and the Wolverines kick things off on Thursday (7:09 p.m., CBS) in Kansas City. I believe that this will be the most entertaining game of the four and Las Vegas seems to agree with me since it has the closest point-spread (Michigan is favored by one point). Oregon survived a major scare by Rhode Island in the second round, 75-72. The Rams were up eight points at halftime but the Ducks were able to scrape by thanks to a game-high 27 points, five rebounds and three steals from sophomore guard Tyler Dorsey. Michigan has played two very close games as they outlasted Oklahoma State 92-91 in a first round track meet and then upset Louisville 73-69 in the second round. German sophomore forward Moritz Wagner had a game-high 26 points versus the Cardinals while sophomore forward D.J. Wilson has seen his draft stock rise with 19 points versus Oklahoma State and 17 against Louisville.

No. 1 Gonzaga (34-1) finally faces a legitimate test in No. 4 West Virginia (28-8) after they dispatched of South Dakota State, 66-46, in the first round and tournament newcomer Northwestern 79-73 in the second round. It feels like Mountaineers head coach Bob Huggins' teams always step up in March and they got here by beating Bucknell 86-80 in an entertaining opener and they notched an impressive 83-71 victory versus Notre Dame in the second round. The Bulldogs don't really have a go-to guy which could hurt them although junior guard Nigel Williams-Goss had 20 points, eight rebounds and two steals against the Wildcats. West Virginia is paced by junior point guard Jevon Carter who had 24 points against the Irish.

No. 1 Kansas (30-4) vs. No. 4 Purdue (27-7) is an intriguing Big 12 vs. Big 10 matchup. It has the highest projected point total of the night (156.5 points) which should make for a nice high-scoring contest. Jayhawks freshman swingman Josh Jackson was impressive in Kansas' 90-70 demolition of Michigan State in the second round with a game-high 23 points, two blocks and two steals. His athleticism was on full display, why he'll be a top three pick this summer in the NBA draft. Boilermakers sophomore power forward Caleb Swanigan is a double-double machine, he had 20 points and 12 rebounds in their 80-76 second-round win over Iowa State.

Finally, No. 2 Arizona (32-4) vs. No. 11 Xavier (23-13) at least on paper looks like the only game on Thursday that could be a mismatch. Then again, the Musketeers destroyed No. 3 Florida State 91-66 in the second round so it's hard to completely overlook them. The Wildcats dropped 100 on North Dakota (who scored 82) in the first round while they struggled to put away St. Mary's in the second round before eventually winning 69-60. If Xavier is going to upset their former head coach Sean Miller and his club, they'll need another huge game from junior guard Trevon Bluiett who scored 21 in their first-round upset of Maryland, then 29 against Florida State.



The eighth-seeded Wolverines have a chance to be this year's Cinderella story. GETTY IMAGES

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The **Joint Committees on Education and Housing, Neighborhood Development & The Homeless** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, April 3, 2017**, at **3:00 PM**, in **Room 400, City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following item:

160077 Resolution authorizing the joint City Council Committees on Education and Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless to hold public hearings to examine the feasibility of having a pilot program in Philadelphia to feed needy children when schools are closed due to emergencies.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Joint Committees on Education and Housing, Neighborhood Development & The Homeless, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item.

Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

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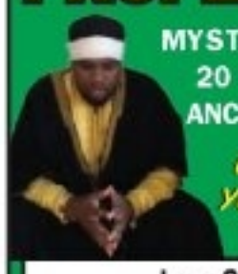
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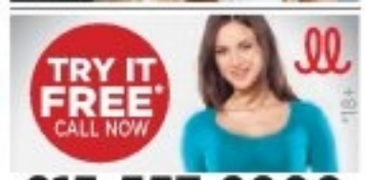

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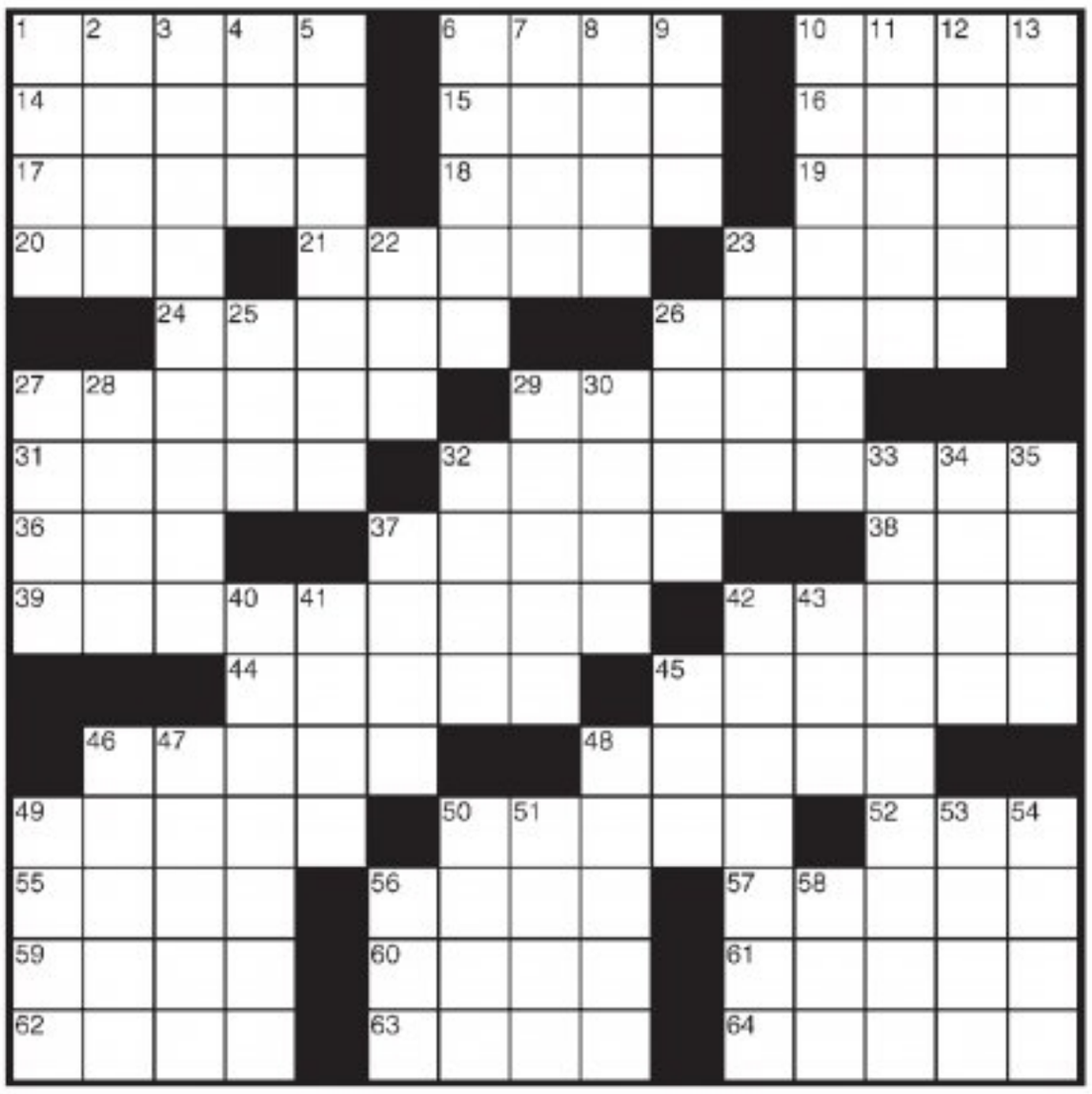
6 Be in harmony
10 L.A. gridders
14 Sheet of plywood
15 Sharif of the movies
16 On a rampage
17 Want badly
18 Castaway's refuge
19 Clothier -- Strauss
20 Tempe sch.
21 Snake toxin
23 Doctrine
24 Machine parts
26 Damsels
27 Utters impulsively
29 Tine
31 Hulking
32 Storage units
36 Fish roe
37 Jack up
38 Zero
39 Jail
42 Ballroom number
44 Nonchalant
45 Deer's refuge
46 Pungent
48 Soldering tools
49 TV deletion
50 Divvy up
52 Cool
55 Costa --
56 Jai --
57 Caribbean nation
59 Kyoto sashes
60 Huge, in combos
61 Osprey relatives
62 Become limp
63 Deeply impressed
64 Greek letter

Down
1 Pet lovers' gp.
2 Scores to shoot for
3 Installation
4 Step on the gas
5 Hoist
6 Signs up
7 -- -- sorry!
8 Soothing ointment
9 Before, to bards
10 Sir Walter --
11 Change a bill
12 Changes address
13 Mini-play
22 RN stations
23 Neutral colors
25 Work unit
26 Burrowing animal
27 Political alliance
28 Volcanic rock
29 Self-confidence
30 Thorny shrub
32 New Mexico town
33 Catching in a snare
34 Claims
35 Narrow board
37 Kind of rage
40 Even with
41 Brief upturn
42 Calms
43 Son of Prince Valiant
45 TGIF part
46 Perpetrator's need
47 DeMille of epics
48 Homer's tale
49 Sweatband site
50 Great number
51 Summon electronically
53 Big-ticket --
54 Leaning tower town
56 Physician's org.
58 Onassis nickname



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easy

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		6						9

hard

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	6	9		8				
8			5			9	3	
			3	7				8
5		6					7	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries A little charm and a whole lot of compassion will help you complete pending projects and resolve problems or uncertainties you face. Romance is favored.

Taurus Putting pressure on someone who opposes you will help you get your way if you do so in a persuasive manner. Offer an incentive to push matters along quickly.

Gemini Do what's best for yourself and aim to improve how you present your personality and abilities. Love and romance are encouraged, and partnerships can be formed.

Cancer Look inward and consider what you can do to make personal improvements. A better health routine or more nutritious diet will do you good. Avoid excessive behavior.

Leo Partnerships, meetings and collaboration look promising. Your knowledge and desire to get ahead will lead to an opportunity that is too good to refuse.

Virgo You can negotiate a deal or make alterations to your living arrangements, but don't go overboard when it comes to spending or you will end up frustrated.

Libra Children, friends and loved ones will play important roles in the way you respond to your current situation. Draw strength and courage from the wisdom being offered you.

Scorpio Chill out and do something creative. Work toward a goal that requires only your input. Don't take risks or get involved in an emotional battle.

Sagittarius If you share your feelings with someone you love, it will lead to plans that will improve your standard of living and boost a personal relationship.

Capricorn A conversation will be misleading. If you are uncertain regarding what's expected of you or the cost involved, ask questions and get answers in writing.

Aquarius You've got spunk, but that doesn't mean you should get into an emotional spat. Let bygones be bygones. The sweetest revenge is your own success.

Pisces A persuasive approach when dealing with others will help you get what you want. If you express your desires colorfully, you'll attract interest. EUGENIA LAST

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I	D	E	A	L	■	O	R	E	O	■	A	R	E	A
S	L	A	T	E	■	B	I	A	S	■	R	U	N	G
S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	■	C	O	P	S	E
■	■	■	O	K	A	Y	■	S	W	E	L	T	E	R
A	L	S	O	■	M	I	R	■	A	L	E	■	■	■
R	U	T	■	S	A	N	E	■	G	L	E	A	M	S
C	L	O	N	E	■	G	N	U	■	O	S	C	A	R
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F	O	C	A	L	■	H	A	R	N	E	S	S	E	D
F	O	E	S	■	S	A	K	I	■	G	E	O	D	E
I	S	A	K	■	A	M	I	E	■	I	N	A	N	E
X	E	N	A	■	M	E	N	D	■	S	T	R	A	P

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